

# Arkansas Labor Market Trends



September 2004

## Arkansas' Nonfarm Jobs Post Seasonal Increases

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted) increased 13,800 between August and September to 1,162,500. Continued hiring for the fall semester at public and private educational facilities was primarily responsible for the increase. A record job level was reached in education and health services.

**Government** employment gained 13,800 jobs between August and September to total 201,700. Full operations were underway in the school systems, and most nonteaching personnel and work-study students had returned for the fall semester.

Employment in **education and health services** rose 2,000 between months, pushing jobs to a record 145,100. The increase was traced almost entirely to the return of workers to private educational facilities.

Jobs in **trade, transportation and utilities** totaled 241,800 in September, up 1,000. This advance was traced to seasonal gains in trade (both wholesale and retail) and also at grain warehousing and storage facilities in preparation for the grain harvest.

**Leisure and hospitality** lost 2,200 jobs over the month to total 91,700. Seasonal reductions were noted throughout the industry as layoffs occurred at businesses that rely on summer activity.

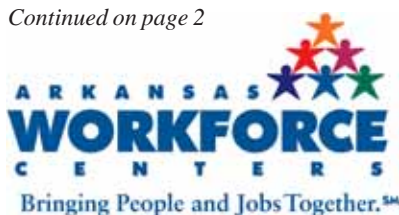
**Manufacturing** employment totaled 203,600 in September, compared with 204,000 in August. Most of the industries reported little or no change between months.

A seasonal job reduction of 200 occurred in **other services**.

Losses of 100 jobs were noted in both **information** and **professional-business services**.

The number of jobs in **natural resources-mining, construction** and **financial activities** was unchanged between months.

Continued on page 2



## Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification

	Sep.-04	Aug.-04	Sep.-03
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>1,162,500</b>	<b>1,148,700</b>	<b>1,154,600</b>
Goods Producing	263,100	263,500	264,800
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>7,100</b>
Mining	3,800	3,800	3,800
<b>Construction</b>	<b>52,300</b>	<b>52,300</b>	<b>52,300</b>
Construction of Buildings	12,000	12,100	12,000
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	10,800	10,700	10,900
Specialty Trade Contractors	29,500	29,500	29,400
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>203,600</b>	<b>204,000</b>	<b>205,400</b>
Durable Goods	108,400	108,500	108,700
Wood Products	14,100	14,100	14,100
Primary Metals	8,200	8,300	7,900
Fabricated Metals	17,800	17,900	17,500
Machinery	14,300	14,400	14,100
Computer & Electronic Products	6,000	6,000	6,200
Electrical Equipment	13,000	13,000	13,100
Transportation Equipment	16,100	16,100	15,800
Furniture & Related Products	8,000	7,800	8,400
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6,600	6,600	6,900
Nondurable Goods	95,200	95,500	96,700
Food	52,200	52,400	52,700
Paper & Printing	17,000	17,100	17,100
Plastics & Rubber Products	12,900	13,000	13,200
Service Providing	899,400	885,200	889,800
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>241,800</b>	<b>240,800</b>	<b>240,900</b>
Wholesale Trade	45,200	45,000	44,900
Retail Trade	130,500	130,100	129,900
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	18,300	18,200	17,800
General Merchandise Stores	35,300	35,200	34,700
Department Stores	10,200	10,200	10,300
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	66,100	65,700	66,100
Utilities	6,700	6,700	6,700
Transportation & Warehousing	59,400	59,000	59,400
Truck Transportation	34,700	34,500	33,500
Warehousing & Storage	10,500	10,000	10,500
<b>Information</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>20,200</b>	<b>20,200</b>
Publishing Industries	6,400	6,400	6,400
Telecommunications	8,500	8,500	8,800
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>51,700</b>	<b>51,700</b>	<b>50,600</b>
Finance & Insurance	38,600	38,500	37,700
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,100	13,200	12,900
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>106,400</b>	<b>106,500</b>	<b>105,100</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	30,500	30,700	30,300
Management of Companies	24,200	24,200	23,800
Administrative & Support Services	51,700	51,600	51,000
Employment Services	24,900	24,600	25,100
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>145,100</b>	<b>143,100</b>	<b>141,400</b>
Educational Services	12,100	10,000	12,100
Health Care & Social Assistance	133,000	133,100	129,300
Ambulatory Health Care	40,600	40,600	39,400
Hospitals	43,200	43,300	41,700
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	25,900	25,800	25,400
Social Assistance	23,300	23,400	22,800
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>91,700</b>	<b>93,900</b>	<b>90,100</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9,800	11,000	9,500
Accommodation & Food Services	81,900	82,900	80,600
Accommodation Service	11,600	12,100	11,100
Food Services	70,300	70,800	69,500
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>40,900</b>	<b>41,100</b>	<b>40,700</b>
Automotive Repair	7,400	7,400	7,400
<b>Government</b>	<b>201,700</b>	<b>187,900</b>	<b>200,800</b>
Federal Government	21,600	21,400	21,300
State Government	67,500	62,300	67,000
Local Government	112,600	104,200	112,500

## Nonfarm - Continued from Page 1

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas advanced by 7,900. Service providing industries gained 9,600 jobs, while goods producing industries lost 1,700.

The **education and health services** sector expanded over the year, adding 3,700 workers. Health care and social assistance facilities accounted for all of the growth.

Compared to the previous year, employment in **leisure and hospitality** advanced 1,600. Hiring in the accommodations and food services sector was responsible for much of the gain.

Employment in the **professional and business services** sector was up 1,300 over the year. The "administration and support services" category accounted for over 50 percent of the growth.

Led by advances in finance and insurance companies, the number of jobs in the **financial activities** sector rose 1,100 over the year.

The number of jobs in **trade, transportation and utilities** was up 900. Increased hiring in trade contributed to the gain.

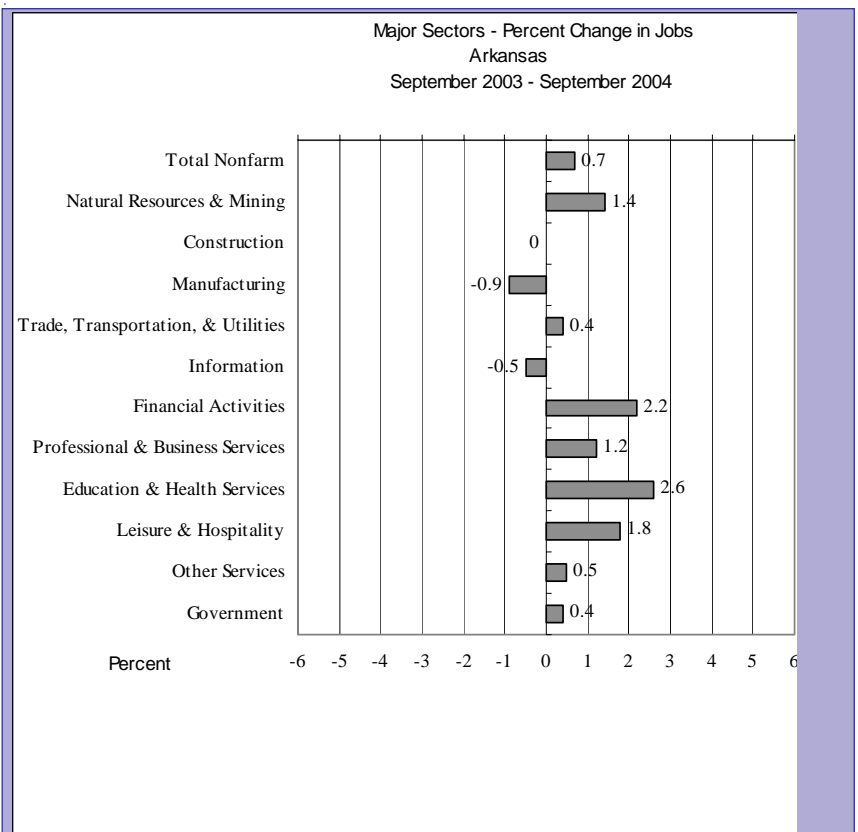
**Government**, which includes federal, state and local agencies, as well as educational facilities, added 900 positions since September 2003.

The number of jobs in **natural resources-mining** and **other services** rose 100 and 200, respectively.

**Manufacturing** fell by 1,800 jobs since September 2003. Durable goods experienced a 300-job loss, and nondurable goods declined 1,500.

A decline of 100 jobs was noted in the **information** sector.

The number of jobs in **construction** remained at 52,300.



## Consumer Price Index for the United States: September-04

1982-1984=100 Base

Percent Change Since:

	Sep.-04	Aug.-04	Sep.-03	Aug.-04	Sep.-03
All Urban Consumers	189.9	189.5	185.2	+ 0.2	+ 2.5
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers	185.4	185.0	181.0	+ 0.2	+ 2.4

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Hours & Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries - State of Arkansas

### NAICS Industry

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sep. 2004	Aug 2004	Sep. 2003	Sep. 2004	Aug 2004	Sep. 2003	Sep. 2004	Aug 2004	Sep. 2003
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>\$538.54</b>	<b>\$541.90</b>	<b>\$545.94</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>\$13.43</b>	<b>\$13.48</b>	<b>\$13.48</b>
Durable Goods	564.83	570.77	556.78	40.9	41.3	41.0	13.81	13.82	13.58
Wood Product Mfg.	621.85	603.50	570.46	43.7	42.5	41.7	14.23	14.20	13.68
Fabricated Metal Prod.	566.42	569.42	590.81	40.2	40.1	41.2	14.09	14.20	14.34
Non-Durable Goods	510.90	510.51	533.46	39.3	39.0	39.9	13.00	13.09	13.37
Food Manufacturing	405.58	414.46	427.05	38.7	39.1	39.8	10.48	10.60	10.73

# Fayetteville - Springdale - Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification

	Sep. 04	Aug. 04	Sep. 03
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>178,900</b>	<b>176,400</b>	<b>174,400</b>
Goods Producing	38,100	38,300	38,300
<b>Natural Resources, Mining, &amp; Construction</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>8,200</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>29,600</b>	<b>29,800</b>	<b>30,100</b>
Durable Goods	12,400	12,500	12,700
Fabricated Metals	3,500	3,500	3,600
Nondurable Goods	17,200	17,300	17,400
Food	12,100	12,100	12,500
Service Providing	140,800	138,100	136,100
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>43,800</b>	<b>43,500</b>	<b>42,300</b>
Wholesale Trade	8,300	8,300	7,800
Retail Trade	18,200	18,100	17,600
General Merchandise Stores	5,100	5,000	5,000
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	17,300	17,100	16,900
<b>Information</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,300</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>6,700</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>27,900</b>	<b>27,400</b>
Employment Services	3,500	3,500	3,500
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>16,300</b>	<b>16,100</b>	<b>15,600</b>
Hospitals	4,900	4,800	4,700
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>14,700</b>	<b>14,700</b>	<b>14,200</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>4,800</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>21,900</b>	<b>22,800</b>
Federal Government	1,900	1,900	1,800
State Government	8,900	7,800	8,600
Local Government	13,200	12,200	12,400



### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Reach Record High

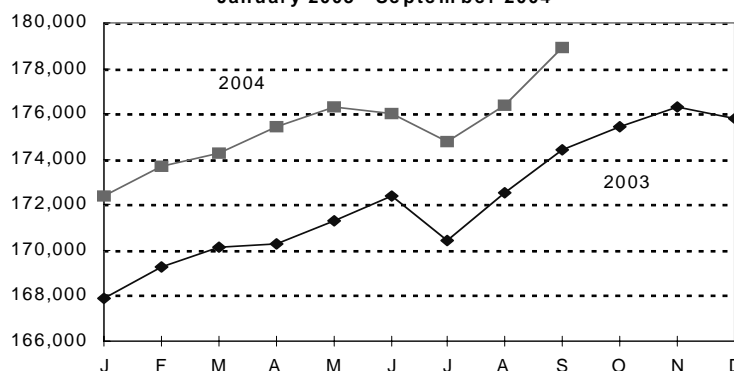
Nonfarm employment in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA rose 2,500 over the month to a record 178,900 in September. Advances in four major sectors were partly offset by a decrease of 200 in manufacturing.

The largest monthly gain was 2,100 in **government**. Most of this increase resulted from the continued return of support personnel at state and local schools.

Since September 2003, nonfarm payroll jobs have added 4,500, for a growth rate of 2.6 percent. Eight major sectors accounted for the growth. The only declines occurred in **manufacturing** (-500) and **information** (-100).

Yearly gains ranged from 100 in **financial activities** to 1,500 in **trade, transportation, and utilities**. **Government** posted an increase of 1,200 jobs.

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA  
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs  
January 2003 - September 2004



## Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

	Sep. 04	Aug. 04	Sep. 03
<b>Average Weekly Earnings</b>	<b>\$583.88</b>	<b>\$572.37</b>	<b>\$542.93</b>
<b>Average Weekly Hours</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>41.1</b>
<b>Average Hourly Earnings</b>	<b>\$13.24</b>	<b>\$13.28</b>	<b>\$13.21</b>

## Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification

	Sep. 04	Aug. 04	Sep. 03
Total Nonfarm	98,600	98,500	100,400
Goods Producing	31,100	31,500	31,300
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,100</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>4,800</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>25,300</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>25,400</b>
Durable Goods	14,600	14,900	14,700
Electrical Equipment	6,000	6,100	6,100
Nondurable Goods	10,700	10,800	10,700
Food Manufacturing	7,300	7,400	7,200
Service Providing	67,500	67,000	69,100
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>19,800</b>	<b>19,900</b>	<b>19,800</b>
Wholesale Trade	3,200	3,300	3,200
Retail Trade	11,000	10,900	11,000
General Merchandise Stores	3,500	3,500	3,500
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	5,600	5,700	5,600
Truck Transportation	4,300	4,300	4,100
<b>Information</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,600</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,600</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>10,000</b>
Employment Services	3,600	3,700	4,900
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>12,200</b>	<b>12,100</b>	<b>12,500</b>
Health Care & Social Assistance	11,900	11,800	12,300
Hospitals	4,400	4,400	4,400
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,300</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>2,800</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>11,500</b>
Federal Government	1,200	1,200	1,300
State Government	1,700	1,700	1,900
Local Government	8,600	8,100	8,300



### Fort Smith MSA Records Job Growth in September

Total nonfarm payroll jobs for the Fort Smith MSA were up by 100 for the month of September 2004. Back-to-school hiring in the **government** sector triggered an increase of 500. **Education and health services** increased 100.

A loss of 400 jobs in the **manufacturing** sector, caused mainly by job cuts in non-durable goods subsector, was the only major loss for the month. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** recorded a loss of 100 for the period.

Nonfarm payroll jobs for the period September 2003 through September 2004 decreased 1,800. Reductions in employment services accounted for the loss of 1,300 jobs in the **professional and business services** sector. **Education and health services** had a loss of 300 jobs for the year. Three sectors (**financial activities, information, and manufacturing**) recorded a loss of 100 jobs each.

The **leisure and hospitality** sector had an increase of 200 jobs for the period. Employment levels stayed the same for the remaining sectors.

## Hours & Earnings of Production Workers

### Manufacturing Industries

	September 04	August 04	September 03
Average Weekly Earnings	\$561.39	\$571.95	\$601.52
Average Weekly Hours	39.9	41.0	44.1
Average Hourly Earnings	\$14.07	\$13.95	\$13.64

# Little Rock - North Little Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification

	Sep. 04	Aug. 04	Sep.03
Total Nonfarm	321,800	318,700	320,500
Goods Producing	41,900	41,700	42,000
<b>Natural Resources, Mining &amp; Construction</b>	<b>17,600</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>17,300</b>
Special Trade Contractors	9,900	9,800	9,800
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>24,300</b>	<b>24,200</b>	<b>24,700</b>
Durable Goods	14,900	14,800	15,200
Fabricated Metals	3,000	3,000	3,100
Computer & Electronic Equipment	2,400	2,400	2,500
Transportation Equipment	3,400	3,400	3,400
Nondurable Goods	9,400	9,400	9,500
Service Providing	279,900	277,000	278,500
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>64,200</b>	<b>63,700</b>	<b>67,500</b>
Wholesale Trade	15,600	15,500	16,000
Retail Trade	33,000	32,500	34,700
Food & Beverage Stores	4,500	4,500	4,600
General Merchandise Stores	8,100	8,000	8,100
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	15,600	15,700	16,800
<b>Information</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>9,300</b>
Telecommunications	4,900	4,900	5,200
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>19,600</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>42,400</b>	<b>42,200</b>	<b>40,400</b>
Computer Systems	4,800	4,800	5,000
Employment Services	11,600	11,300	9,500
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>41,200</b>	<b>41,200</b>	<b>41,500</b>
Hospitals	13,400	13,500	13,000
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>24,800</b>
Food Services	18,700	18,500	19,200
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>12,100</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>65,300</b>	<b>63,500</b>	<b>63,400</b>
Federal Government	9,400	9,400	9,400
State Government	30,700	30,500	28,900
Local Government	25,200	23,600	25,100



## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Climb in September 2004

Nonfarm employment climbed 3,100 or one percent between August and September in the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA according to preliminary data. The biggest boost came from **government** where 1,800 jobs were added. The increases were attributed to normal gains as nonteaching personnel and work-study students continued returning for the fall semester. Increases in **trade, transportation-utilities** (+500) were traced to seasonal gains in retail trade. **Leisure and hospitality** totaled 25,700 in September, an increase of 500. The food service and drink sub-sector was the leading factor in the gain. Employment services filled 300 jobs, raising **professional and business services** employment figures to 42,400. **Other services** recorded a loss of 200 jobs over the month.

A year-to-year comparison showed total nonfarm payroll jobs advanced by 1,300. Employment in **professional and business services** rose 2,000 with employment services accounting for the majority of the increase. Gains in state government accounted for 1,800 jobs in the **government** sector over the year. The **leisure and hospitality** sector recorded 900 additional jobs and **financial activities** gained 500. **Information** and **other services** decreased 200 and 100 respectively since September 2003. Declines in the **trade, transportation and utilities** sector were attributed to reductions in trade (both wholesale and retail) and also transportation, warehouse and utilities.

The goods producing industries reported declines of 400 in **manufacturing** over the year. Some of the decreases were traced to fabricated metals, computer-electronics and transportation equipment manufacturing sub sectors.

## Hours and Earnings of Production Workers

	Manufacturing Industries			Durable Goods Industries		
	Sep. 04	Aug. 04	Sep. 03	Sep. 04	Aug. 04	Sep.03
Average Weekly Earnings	\$644.44	\$587.12	\$581.98	\$648.27	\$604.03	\$566.92
Average Weekly Hours	44.2	41.0	41.6	44.1	41.6	39.7
Average Hourly Earnings	\$14.58	\$14.32	\$13.99	\$14.70	\$14.52	\$14.28

## Pine Bluff Metropolitan Statistical Area



### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Advance in September

In September 2004, Pine Bluff MSA showed gains of 300 jobs in total nonfarm. In the service providing industries, 200 jobs were added in the **government** sector and 100 additional in **education and health services**.

A comparison of year-to-year nonfarm payroll numbers for the Pine Bluff MSA showed a gain of 1,000 jobs. Most increases were noted in the service providing industries (+800). **Education and health services** employment grew by 200. **Government**, which includes federal, state and local, added 700 jobs. Two hundred additional manufacturing jobs triggered an upturn in the goods producing industries over the year.

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification

	Sep. 04	Aug. 04	Sept. 03
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>36,900</b>	<b>36,600</b>	<b>35,900</b>
Goods Producing	8,200	8,200	8,000
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>900</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>7,100</b>
Nondurable Goods	4,400	4,400	4,500
Service Providing	28,700	28,400	27,900
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>6,500</b>
Wholesale Trade	1,000	1,000	1,000
Retail Trade	4,000	4,000	4,100
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	1,400	1,400	1,400
<b>Information</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,400</b>
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,500</b>
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,300</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>8,300</b>
Federal Government	1,900	1,900	1,800
State Government	3,200	3,200	2,900
Local Government	3,900	3,700	3,600

## Jonesboro Metropolitan Statistical Area



### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Decline Slightly in September

The total number of nonfarm payroll jobs decreased slightly in the Jonesboro MSA during September. The only decline was in the **manufacturing** sector.

When comparing the yearly employment picture for the MSA, total jobs decreased in four major sectors and increased in three. Decreases, totaling 1,000 jobs, occurred in the following sectors: **mining-construction, trade-transportation-utilities, professional-business services, and education-health services**. Increases of 100 each in **manufacturing, leisure-hospitality, and government** partly offset the losses resulting in an overall reduction of 700 jobs. No changes were noted in the remaining sectors.

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

North American Industry Classification

	Sep. 04	Aug. 04	Sept. 03
<b>Total NonFarm</b>	<b>40,600</b>	<b>40,700</b>	<b>41,300</b>
<b>Mining &amp; Construction</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>2,200</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>7,500</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>Information</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,100</b>
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,600</b>
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,700</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>6,500</b>

## Technical Notes

"Labor Market Trends" is prepared monthly in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision.

Estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs show the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work.

Hours and earnings estimates are based on payroll and worker-hour data collected for production workers in manufacturing industries.

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System. All estimates are based on a first quarter 2003 benchmark.

### Explanation of Terms and Concepts

**Monthly Business Survey of Employers** - A monthly sample survey designed to provide industry information on nonfarm payroll jobs. Data are compiled each month from mail questionnaires and telephone interviews by the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board in cooperation with BLS. The data are based on establishment records and include all workers, full- or part-time, who received pay during the payroll period which includes the 12th of the month. Approximately 4,000 business establishments are included in the Arkansas survey.

**Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** - A term applied by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to counties that have one or more central cities and that meet specified criteria of population density, commuting patterns and social and economic integration.

**Current Population Survey (CPS)** - A monthly sample survey of the population 16 years of age and over, designed to provide data on the labor force, the employed and the unemployed. The survey is conducted each month by the Bureau of the Census for BLS. The information is collected

by trained interviewers from a sample of about 50,000 households. The data collected are based on the activity reported for the calendar week including the 12th of the month. A total of 871 Arkansas households are represented in the sample survey.

**Civilian Labor Force** - The sum of all employed and unemployed persons 16 years of age or older. Members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

**Employment** - An estimate of the number of persons who worked any time for pay or profit or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family business during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month. Also included are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, and persons involved in labor management disputes.

**Unemployment** - An estimate of the number of persons who did not have a job, but were available for work and actively seeking work during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month.

**Unemployment Rate** - The number of unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labor force.

**Seasonal Adjustment** - A statistical technique applied to monthly data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year due to such seasonal events as changes in the weather, major holidays, shifts in production schedules, harvest times, and the opening and closing of schools.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI)** - A measure of the average change in prices over time of a fixed market basket of goods and services. It is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation fares, and other items that people buy for day-to-day living. The CPI shown in this publication represents the U.S. city average and is not seasonally adjusted. There is no separate consumer price index for Arkansas.

## Labor Force Statistics

<b>Arkansas</b> (Seasonally Adjusted)	September 2004	August 2004	September 2003
Civilian Labor Force	1,326,800	1,321,300	1,263,600
Employment	1,253,500	1,250,400	1,180,400
Unemployment	73,300	70,900	83,200
Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.4	6.6
<b>Arkansas</b> (Not Seasonally Adjusted)			
Civilian Labor Force	1,322,000	1,329,900	1,261,700
Employment	1,255,700	1,262,400	1,187,200
Unemployment	66,300	67,500	74,500
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.1	5.9
<b>Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	181,800	182,250	168,450
Employment	177,375	177,750	163,475
Unemployment	4,425	4,500	4,975
Unemployment Rate	2.4	2.5	3.0
<b>Fort Smith</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	101,125	102,225	98,200
Employment	96,375	97,675	93,000
Unemployment	4,750	4,550	5,200
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.5	5.3
<b>Jonesboro</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	45,950	46,125	44,425
Employment	43,900	44,000	42,000
Unemployment	2,050	2,125	2,425
Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.6	5.5
<b>Little Rock-North Little Rock</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	327,025	328,000	308,850
Employment	312,400	313,575	292,775
Unemployment	14,625	14,425	16,075
Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.4	5.2
<b>Pine Bluff</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	38,925	39,225	36,000
Employment	35,625	35,825	32,700
Unemployment	3,300	3,400	3,300
Unemployment Rate	8.5	8.7	9.1
<b>United States</b> <b>Unemployment Rates:</b>			
Seasonally Adjusted	5.4	5.4	6.1
Not Seasonally Adjusted	5.1	5.4	5.8

Note: MSA data are not seasonally adjusted.



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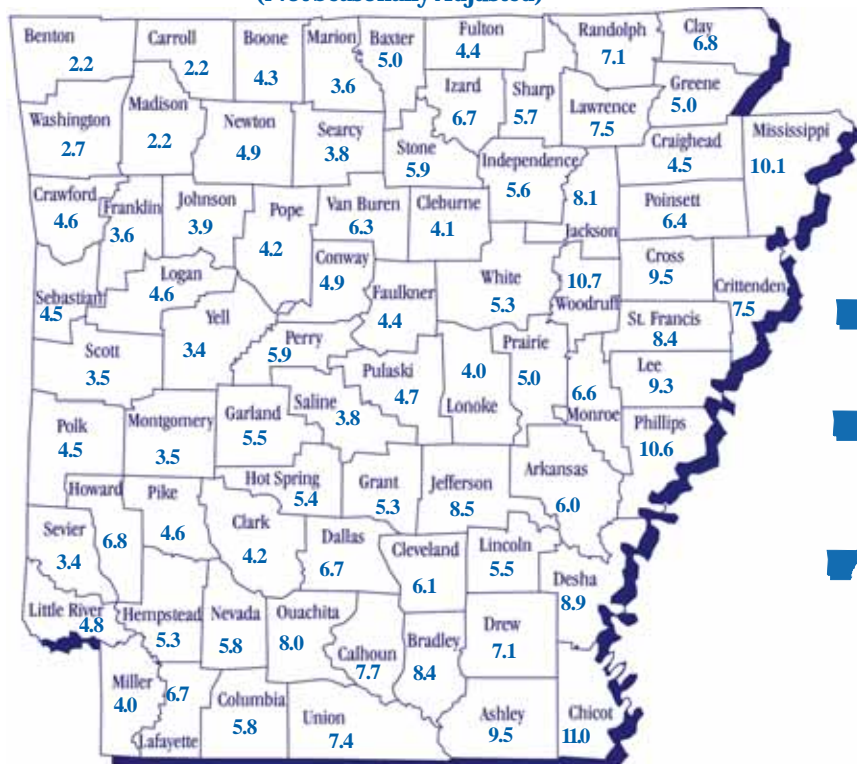
[www.arkansas.gov/esd/LaborMarketInfo/BLS/A\\_lmilmthp.htm](http://www.arkansas.gov/esd/LaborMarketInfo/BLS/A_lmilmthp.htm)



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## Arkansas Unemployment Rates by County September 2004 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Mike Huckabee - Governor  
State of Arkansas  
Arte Williams-Director

### Arkansas Employment Security Department

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- Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.5 percent in September.
- Sixty-five of Arkansas' 75 counties recorded lower unemployment rates in September 2004 when compared with September 2003. Nine counties had higher rates, while the rate in White County was 5.3 percent for both months.
- The lowest unemployment rate in September 2004 was 2.2 percent—posted in three counties: Benton, Carroll, and Madison. Washington County, at 2.7 percent, was also below 3.0 percent. Eleven counties had unemployment rates between 3.0 percent and 4.0 percent in September.

Additional county statistics are available from the Arkansas Employment Security Department in the monthly publication, *Labor Market Information for Arkansas Counties*.